
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**January 22, 2008
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori

MTA

SCAG Staff

Acebo, Mervin

Asuncion, John

Ayala, Rosemary

Del Rosario, Sheryll

Mann, Betty

Nadler, Jonathan

Patsaouras, Sylvia

Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Ambrosi, Rafael

Behtash, Arman

Brady, Mike

Yoon, Andrew

Fagan, Paul

Cacatian, Ben

Gomez, Carol

Higgins, Kathryn

Johnson, Sandy

Lay, Keith

Lopez, Rosa

Noch, Michelle

Williams, Leanne

Walecka, Carla

Caltrans District 11

Caltrans District 12

Caltrans Headquarters

Caltrans District 7

Caltrans District 8

Ventura County Air Pollution

SCAQMD

SCAQMD

Caltrans District 11

LSA & Associates

IVAG

FHWA

Caltrans District 7

Carla Walecka & Assoc.

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Lori Abrishami, MTA, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 TCWG October 23, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mike Brady, Caltrans, requested a revision on the November 19, 2007 minutes. On Item 4.1, Mr. Brady requested that the language regarding LAE2932, City of Carson be changed from “*determined*” to “*recommended*” that the project was a TCM.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, stated that staff was currently reviewing and analyzing county submittals for the 2008 RTIP. Amendment #12 to the 2006 RTIP, was submitted in late December. Staff is currently waiting for state and federal approval. Staff is also reviewing and analyzing Amendment #13. There are approximately 500 projects in Amendment #13. The majority of the projects are changes to the network. A list of the projects is posted on SCAG’s website under the proposed 2006 RTIP. The closing date for public comments is February 19, 2008.

4.2 AQMP/SIP

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, stated that as the State moves forward with AQMP’s and the SIP’s for the 8-hour ozone non-attainment areas, the EPA requested that the State alter the historical approach to the reasonable further progress (RFP) analysis the AQMPs/SIPs for 8-hour ozone non-attainment

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areas that rely on reductions in other (upwind) non-attainment areas. The EPA worked with the State to figure out a way to approach the Clean Air Act and conformity requirements for these areas and determined that the State would produce Early Progress Plans for the downwind areas as a mechanism to set the transportation budgets. The plans demonstrate progress from base year 2002 to whatever attainment date was originally specified in the Clean Air Act for these areas. In the SCAG Region, areas for which Early Progress Plans are being developed are the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin, the Western Mojave Desert Air Basin, the Coachella Valley and Imperial County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin.

4.3 RTP Update

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, stated that the Draft RTP had been released for public comment. Thus far, there have been two public hearings in the Region. The next public hearing is scheduled for January 30th in Orange County. At the last meeting of the TCWG, staff shared the conformity analysis on the Draft RTP that included regional emissions analyses and the timely implementation of the TCM's. The conformity analysis for the Draft RTP has been completed and is posted on SCAG's website.

Mr. Nadler also discussed information related to heavy-duty truck data for a portion of the Mojave Desert ozone non-attainment area. There was a discrepancy between ARB's and SCAG's heavy-duty truck vehicle miles traveled (VMT) data in the San Bernardino County portion of the Western Mojave 8-hour ozone non-attainment area. Because SCAG's old transportation model did not cover the full geography of the SCAG region, ARB historically used ground counts to estimate and add to the Victor Valley area that was included in the old SCAG model. SCAG compared actual ground counts to the results from the new transportation model (which covers the entire SCAG region) and the ground counts substantiate higher VMT than the new model produces. Staff discussed this with the ARB, FHWA, and the EPA and agreed that the ARB can use the higher VMT when setting the emissions budget for this area. When SCAG does the conformity analysis staff will adjust the model output for the San Bernardino portion of the Western Mojave to account for the VMT difference.

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4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Form

1) RIV070710 - Indian Canyon Drive at Tamarisk Road, City of Palm Springs.

Not a POAQC.

2) SBD031279 – Construct a new full-service interchange at Interstate 15 (I-15) and Rancho Road.

Not a POAQC.

3) LALS02/SR-39 – Re-Opening

Not a POAQC.

4.5 Projects Requiring Follow-Up

La 000357 and LA000358 -HOV Project on I-5:

Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG, stated that the revised version of the qualitative analysis was submitted. The original comments requested the inclusion of PM2.5 re-entrained dust as part of the analysis. There were no additional comments from FHWA. Both EPA and Caltrans had previously commented on the analysis. The document was revised to reflect those comments.

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans, stated that the analysis had been reviewed by the FHWA, EPA, and through inter-agency consultation with SCAG's TCWG in late October. There were some comments regarding traffic redistribution. Because of this, the EPA and FHWA required more information. The current document incorporates the comments from both agencies.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, stated that concurrence was needed by TCWG in methods and conclusions.

This was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation pending Karina O'Connor's (EPA) determination.

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RIV031218 - Mid County Parkway in Riverside

Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG, stated that the project was originally submitted to the TCWG in August 2007. Both the EPA and FHWA provided comments regarding the analysis.

Keith Lay, LSA & Associates, stated that the main issues EPA and FHWA had concerned addressing the new PM 2.5 35 microgram standard. Additional concerns included distinguishing between the alternatives. The analysis has been revised to include all the items and has been submitted to the EPA for approval.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, indicated that the report would likely need to include an analysis of PM2.5 re-entrained dust. Mr. Brady also pointed out that project appears to increase emissions above existing and it increases emissions above the no project alternative.

The revised version of the analysis is on SCAG's website. Staff is currently waiting for concurrence from EPA, FHWA, and Caltrans. Staff encouraged the TCWG to submit their comments and determination within a week. Staff will then bring the project back to the TCWG for further discussion.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Sheryll Del Rosario, SCAG, stated that on January 18th, the Federal Register included an official release of EMFAC2007. The notice will be posted on SCAG's website.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, stated that the California Transportation Planning Conference is taking place on February 6-8, 2008 in Long Beach. For more information, contact Dara Wheeler at Caltrans Headquarters. More details are posted at the Caltrans planning website.

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6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Lori Abrishami adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on February 26, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.